PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

UNITY CHURCH, PICKENS COUNTY, ALA.,

September 25th, 26th and 27th, 1886.

Elder S. HILDRETH, Moderator.
Elder H. B. CHAPPELLE, Clerk.

The next session will be held with Beulah Church, Greene County, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1887.

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PROCEEDINGS.

The Fifty-First Annual Session of the UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION was held with the Unity Baptist Church, Pickens County, Ala., commencing Saturday, September 25, 1886. At 10 o'clock A. M. the Moderator, Elder S. Hildreth, read the 81h Psalm, and the session was opened with prayer by Elder J. C. Foster.

Brethren J. H. Curry and W. G. Robertson were requested to read the letters from the churches, and the names of delegates were enrolled, as follows:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Bethlehem—Eld. D O Baird,* A. H. Sanders, J H Huff. Liberty—J W Abrams, S P Sloan, J N Easterwood. Mt. Pleasant—W B Hicks, H Strickland. Joshua Hall.* Fellowship—J C B Johnson, J B Hodo,* Benj. Pearson * Corinth—James Mills, Jr., J W Mitchell, J A Mitchell. Flat Woods—Eld. J S Shirley, B Moss,* Thos. Shirley. Spring Hill, Lamar Co.—Oliver Wooten, D B Robertson* Jesse Hackleman.* Pleasant Grove—O F McAdams, A P Bobbit.* A G Cobb.* Kennedy's—Wm. McCullough, S W Vice, W T Walker.*

SECOND DISTRICT.

McBee Creek—Not represented. New Arbor Spring—J A Estes, C M Geer.* J W Harper.* Mineral Spring—Wm Manning, A T Coward, J J Funderburk.* Oak Ridge—J M Copeland, H L Williams, N N Davis.* Spring Hill, Pickens—Not represented. Hebron—H A Pearson, B F Fason, J F Cockrell. Big Creek—U E Allen,* Robt. Pearson,* Jos. Mullins. Cross Roads—Not represented.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Pickensville—Elder S Hildreth, J R Long,* T B Taylor.* Carrollton—W G Robertson, L M Stone, D C Hodo. Ebenezer—T H Noland, L S Noland,* Wm Elmore.* Antioch—H Easterling,* J Gazaway,* A Shepherd.* Temple Hill—Not represented. Unity—J W Gaskin, W R Davis, E Easterling. Enon—C Richey, T T Atteberry, H B Chappelle, Jr. Mt. Zion—M L Gaskin, M N Winston, Jas. Noland. Prairie—R D Leavell. Wm. C Mayes, W A Williams.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Forest—John Upchurch, I Teer, W H Teer. Shiloh—A P Smith, Gill Thomas,* J L Thomas.* Chalcedony—S Burroughs, M P Quinn, James Powell. Beulah—E H Lamb. J T Smith. N Cobb. Bethel—Wm. Barton, J M Philips, J A Levell. New Hope—J P Barnett, J M Smith, J W Robertson.* Zion—J H Pate, W G Berry, Milus Pate.* Nazareth—Richard Marlow, A D Jones. Grant's Creek—Elder J C Foster, H C Mabarry, H G Mitchell.

The Association was organized by the re-election of Elder S. Hildreth, Moderator, and H. B. Chappelle, Clerk.

On motion, adjourned for Introductory Sermon. This sermon was preached by the appointee, Elder J. C. Foster, John 20: 29.

1:30 P. M.—The Association met pursuant to adjournment: prayer by Elder J. H. Curry.

1. Received correspondence from other bodies: From the Tuskaloosa Association—Letter and brethren J. S. Dill, L. P. Baker, S. B. Foster and J. H. Foster, Jr. From Sabbath School Convention—Letter and brethren W. G. Robertson and D. C. Hodo. From the Lebanon—Letter and brethren A. B. Richardson, Duncan Salmond and Jack Parker.

On motion, invited visiting brethren to seats.

2. Returned correspondence:

To the Tuskaloosa—To convene with the church at Tuskaloosa, Ala., Tuesday before the 2nd Sabbath in September, 1887. W. G. Berry. W. G. Robertson, James Mills, Jr., J. H. Curry, J. P. Parks, J. L. Ray, W. J. Beaty, J. C. Foster.

To the Sabbath School Convention—To convene with Hebron church, Friday before 5th Sabbath in July, 1887. J. H. Curry, W. G. Robertson, H. B. Chappelle.

To the Lebanon—To convene with the church at . . . . . on . . . . . before 1st Sabbath in Sept., 1887. J. H. Curry, H. B. Chappelle, M. G. Lofton, C. Richey.

To the Columbus—To convene with the church at . . . . . on . . . . . 1887. S. Hildreth, J. P. Lee, H. B. Chappelle, Wm. McCullough.

On motion, suspended Order of Business, and appointed following commitees:

On Religious Exercises—C Richey, J M Smith, H Strickland, H. L. Williams, with pastor and deacons of Unity church.

Aged and Infirm Ministers—N. Cobb, J M Copeland, E. Easterling, Jas. Mills, Jr.

Publications—L M Stone, H A Pearson, S P Sloan, J H Pate.

Nominations—J W Mitchell, W R Davis, Robt. Pearson, J C B Johnson.

Apportionment of the Churches—J G Thornton, W G Robertson, James Mills, Jr., J J Funderburk.

Documents—D C Hodo, J A Estes, W B Hicks, John Upchurch.

Deceased Deacons—H C Maharry, James Noland, Joseph Mullins, J A Mitchell.

Finance—J T Smith, S W Vice, T H Noland, H B Chappelle, Jr.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Bible and Colportage Work—W G Robertson, U E Allen, J S Shirley.

Sabbath Schools—C Richey, J M Smith, H A Pearson.

Temperance—J T Smith, J H Stinson, J A Estes.

Education—R H Foster, H L Williams, S H Knox.

Missions—D C Hodo, Wm. Mayes, W J Beaty.

Order of Business—T B Taylor, E D Willett, Jr.

Resumed Order of Business: Report of committee on Bible and Colportage Work was received and adopted:

COLPORTAGE AND BIBLE WORK.

Your committee would state that, notwithstanding that brother J. G. Thornton has been actively and zealously engaged during this year, and especially since the first of March last, in selling Bibles and Testaments, hymn books and other religious literature; having sold to the amount of $256.00, and donated three, still there is great destitution in our bounds. Many families are without God's holy Word. Jesus said, "Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me. The holy scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus. How can we search the scriptures unless we have them? They cannot make us wise unto salvation unless we study them. How important then that every family have a copy of God's word. Brethren,

are we not derelict of duty, for after fifty-one years of work within our territory we still have families without a Bible. Let us arouse ourselves to action, for sinners are dying every day.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. FOSTER, Chm.

The Circular Letter, by Elder H. B. Chappelle, was read, and on motion was referred to committee on Documents.

Report on District Meetings, arranged and adopted, viz:

First District—The next annual meeting of this District will be held with Corinth church, Friday before the 4th Sabbath in July, 1887. Introductory sermon by Elder J. S. Shirley; alternate, Elder W. J. Beaty. Missionary sermon by Elder D. O. Baird; alternate, Elder J. S. Wooten. *Queries*—1. Is free moral agency taught in the Scriptures? 2. Is the doctrine of regeneration taught in the Old Testament? *Essay*—The influence of a regular prayer meeting upon the church, and the duty of members thereto.

Second District—No report handed in.

Third District—The next meeting of this District will be held with Antioch church, Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in July, 1887. Introductory sermon, Eld. J. H. Curry; alt., Eld. J. G. Thornton. Missionary sermon by Elder M. G. Lofton; alternate, Elder S. Hildreth. *Queries*—1. Who is responsible for the cultivation of the missionary spirit in the church and community? Opened by James Noland. 2. What is the duty of the pastor to the church? Opened by W. C. Mayes. 3. What is the duty of the church to the pastor? Opened by Calvin Upchurch. *Essays*—1. The best means to induce our ministers to fill their appointments and attend our annual meetings. C. Richey. 2. Christian benevolence. Mrs. Mary E. Gardner.

Fourth District—The next session of this District will be held with New Hope church, Friday before the 4th Sabbath in August, 1887. Introductory sermon by Elder J. G. Thornton; alternate, Elder J. C. Foster. Misssionary sermon by Eld. M. M. Wood; alternate Elder J. L. Ray. *Queries*—1. "Necessity of daily Bible study." Opened by J. L. Marques and Dr. R. Lucius. 2. Individual responsibility of church members. Opened by Dr. P. Smith and N. Cobb. 3. Benefit of pastoral visits. Opened by J. P. Barnett and H. G. Mitchell. *Essay*.—The sin of covetousness, and how to deal with it. Elder M. M. Wood.

Report of committee on Education was read, and pending its discussion a motion prevailed to amend by the adoption of the following: *Resolved*, That this Association raise $100.00 for the education of bro. H. A. Pearson, a licentiate of Hebron church. Report as thus amended was then adopted.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

The cause of education has improved during the past year. Your committee has reasons to assure this body that there is much interest being manifested on the subject. The strongholds of error and sin can be assailed by truth only, and this cannot be done without some enlightened methods.

The responsibility rests on us to support our own schools and colleges. If they are fostered, our ministry will be improved, and we will soon have men in the field equipped for the battle with error and sin. Those who have been denied an education are training themselves by study and are entitled to our assistance.

We should extend a helping hand to our institutions of learning and to those who desire to become fitted for the sacred desk. D. C. HODO, Chm.

On motion, Elder J. S. Dill was requested to preach the Annual Missionary Sermon on to-morrow in Unity church and Elder J. H. Curry at same hour preach in the "colored" church as one house would not seat the congregation.

On motion, an opportunity was given unassociated churches seeking membership in this body to present their petitionary letter, when a letter was received from the Nazareth Baptist church, and on motion the church was received and assigned to the Fourth District.

On motion, adjourned till to-morrow. Prayer by brother N. Cobb.

SABBATH.

9:30 A. M.—Prayer meeting conducted by Elder W. J. Beaty.

The report on Missions was read, and pending motion to adopt, the subject was laid over till to-morrow, 10 o'clock a. m. Adjourned for preaching. These services were conducted as previously arranged to large and attentive congregations.

2 o'clock P. M. The Association met. Prayer by brethren Jas. Mills, Jr., and W. G. Robertson.

On motion, excused Elder J. S. Shirley from further attendance on Association.

Report of committee on Sabbath Schools was read and adopted:

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The moral training of the people depend in a large measure upon the Sabbath School. Most of our earnest, efficient, and christian workers are drawn from those who have been educated by faithful and conscientious Sabbath School teachers. The work of training our youth, then, is one full of interest to the christian, and fraught with mighty responsibility to the church. As has been truly said "The Sabbath School is the church at work." Here is an opportunity for the improvement of those talents which must otherwise lie dormant for want of a field in which to be exercised. The pliant minds of children no less than of adults, are here started with those truths and doctrines which will not only render them proof against the attacks of infidelity, but prepare them to meet and oppose those forms of error which are given in the light of religious truth but are no less fatal, because presented in a false garb.

It is with pleasure that we notice the steady growth of Sabbath Schools in our Association. Through the kindness of the worthy Secretary of the Sabbath School Convention, we report the number of Sabath-school scholars 736 and 83 Teachers. May the Lord increase the zeal and efficiency of His servants, and may the good work continue until the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth.

Respectfully submitted,

I. TEER, Chairman.

On motion adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock a. m. Prayer by Elder J. C. Foster.

Monday, 9 o'clock A. M. The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by brother H. A. Pearson.

The reports of the Evangelist and the Executive Board were read and adopted:

REPORT OF EVANGELIST.

I come before you with my final and last report. I resumed work March 2, 1886, and herewith submit report of my work.

Preached 58 sermons, delivered 12 addresses, visited 18 churches; baptized 3, received by letter 4, baptized in connection with my labors 3, received by letter 3, religious visits made to families 422, number of miles traveled 959. Books, Bibles,

Testaments and Hymn books sold 280, valued at $256.00; Testaments and Bibles donated 3, price $1.15.

I have received for missions from the churches $19.15. I attended the State Convention at Birmingham, also the Sunday School Convention of the colored people. They appreciated the services rendered them, and were very liberal towards the colportage work.

They need help and ought to have it I raised $7.25, to assist in building Spring Hill Colored Baptist church. In my work I found quite a number of our churches without regular preaching. There is great need for a concert of action among our churches. I am happy to say I have been kindly received by the people. I have had good and attentive congregations. Notwithstanding the great financial embarrassment I have succeeded very well with the colportage work.

There is a great need in all our churches for our denominational works. We as a denomination are sleeping to a great measure in regard to pressing home to the hearts of our people those grand old doctrines of faith once delivered to the saints.

With this my report I commit back the work which you have entrusted to my care for the past two years.

I return thanks to the Executive Board for their encouragement and support; also the State Mission Board. As regards the future working, I submit it to the discretion of this body to say.

Respectfully submitted,

JAS. G. THORNTON.

On motion the following form of church letter for the churches to the Association was adopted:

The.....Baptist Church, to the Union Baptist Association:

Dear Brethren—We send Brethren..... to represent us in your body, whom we pray you receive in the name of Christ.

STATISTICAL REPORT.

Increased.....	Decreased.....
By Baptism.....	By Letter.....
" Letter.....	" Exclusion.....
" Restoration.....	" Death.....

Present membership.....Males.....Females.....Total members. Days of preaching.....Prayer meetings, how often? .....Church meetings, when held?.....Pastor's name.....

Post-office..... Clerk's name..... ....

Post-office.....

CONTRIBUTIONS.

Pastor's salary.....	State Missions.....
Ministerial Education...	Foreign Missions.....
Indigent Ministers.....	Ministerial Education.
Sabbath School Work....	Printing Minutes.....
Association	Total.....

SABBATH-SCHOOL STATISTICS.

Superintendent	Post-office.....
No. of Teachers.....	No. of pupils.....
No. of Males.....	No. of Females——....
Average attendance.....	Total.....
Literature used.....	No. Baptized.....

Remarks.....

Date..... .....Clerk.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

We employed Elder J. G. Thornton as Evangelist and Colporteur, beginning March 1st and continuing seven months, during which time he has visited quite a number of our churches, visiting, preaching, and selling Bibles, Testaments and other good books to the people. He has been well and favorably received wherever he has gone and has done much good; but much remains to be done—in fact he has been unable to hardly enter the field, so great is the destitution among our churches. Owing to the large territory covered by our churches and the amount of work to be done it is out of the question for one man to perform the labor required of an Evangelist. It is deplorable to note the increased destitution within our bounds. The cause appeals loudly to our people for help, and unless something is speedily done there is a strong probability that several of our churches will have to close doors. The supreme question for your consideration is, how to meet the demand. May the Head of the church direct you in this matter. Fraternally,

W. G. ROBERTSON, Sec. C. RICHEY, Chairman.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Receipts to September 27, 1886.

From sale of Minutes	$ 1 00	
" Enon church, $30.60; also 2.85 for Min. Ed	34 45	
" Big Creek, U. E. A, and S, F. A., &c	3 25	
" Flat Woods, 1.85; Fellowship 2.95; Zion 1.20	6 00	
" Arbor Spring 95c; Fiberty 7.40; Beulah 50.00	58 35	
" Carrollton church, Min. Ed. $10, S. S. tor Mis, 11.60	21 60	
" Carrollton church	43 40	
" J. G. Thornton, collection for Min. Ed	2 00	
" U. E. Allen, Mexico, $1; Corinth for Mis 1.00	2 00	
" Pickensville S. S. Bible Work 1,85; church 20.00	21 85	
" Kennedy church $8; Mineral Spring 9.20; Oak Ridge $7	24 20	
", Hebron 15.00; Unity 3.00; Mt. Zion 2.05; Prairie $12	32 05	
" Forest 4.50; Grant's Creek 8.35, for Mis. 4.85	17 70	
" Big Creek, W. P. Chappelle $1,00, J. N. Mullins $1.00	2 00	
" W. O. Kelsey 2 00; collection at Association 27.75	29 75	
" 4th District 1885, $3.60; collect'n at Assoc'n Min. Ed. $5.95	9 55	
" 2nd District 3.75; Bethel church 6.65; State Board $100	110 40	
" 3rd District	1 05	
		419.60

DISBURSEMENTS.

By paid Elder J. G. Thornton, Evangelist	233 33	
" H. A. Tupper, Secretary Foreign Missions	36 60	
" Board Ministerial Education	30 00	
" Bro. Pate 4.50, Bro. W. J. Beaty 1.45 (books)	5 95	
" Home Mission Board	25 00	
" Bible and Colportage, State Board	5 00	
" Indigent Minister, " "	7 72	
" Missions, Mexico	1 00	344.60
" balance on hand for State Missions		$ 75.00

W. G. ROBERTSON, Sec'y and Teas'r.

On motion, following resolution was adopted: *Resolved*, That we submit the Evangelistic work of this Association to the wisdom and discretion of the Executive Board.

On motion, *Resolved:* That realizing the importance of having a good plan in all our churches for the collection of missions we recommend to the churches of this Association the adoption of the "Envelope System" as proposed by the State Mission Board.

The report on Missions was resumed and adopted:

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

No christian can doubt the imperative obligation of the great commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." To comply with this great command of our Saviour, the means must be provided. We have the ability and opportunity to do and are held responsible, if we don't avail ourselves of the opportunity. This great work is rapidly progressing, and our denomination are becoming more and more intensified with this christian duty.

Your committee recommend that this subject be held prominently before our people by the pastors and churches, and that the duty of increasing our contributions be pressed home to every Baptist. The work that has been done and is being done by our State Mission Board should inspire us with greater zeal. During the last conventional year there were sixty-five employed for part or all the time by this Board. This Board has now forty employees, going into the waste places of our beloved State.

The work done by these faithful servants of God is as follows:—Days of service 2,620, miles traveled 56,000, addresses delivered 218, sermons preached 2,677, churches constituted 13, baptized 275, baptized in connection with thier labor 396, received by letter 252, received by restoration 52, Sunday Schools organized 190, books sold 2,243, value of the same $1,429.12. Woman Mission Societies organized 18, Bibles and Testaments donated value of $69.35, visits to families 4,649, visits to churches 634, preaching stations 103, subscriptions to Foreign Mission Journal 75, prayer-meetings held 429, meeting houses commenced 16, meeting houses finished 8, subscription to Alabama Baptist 86.

The State Mission Board has committed to it nearly all the interest of the denomination in Alabama: Namely, State Mission or Mission Work in Ala., Home Mission or Mission Work in the Southern States and the Island of Cuba, Foreign Missions or Mission Work in the regions beyond; Indigent Ministers, Bible and Colportage Work of the American Baptist Publication Society and the Evangelization of the colored people. Our Association is asked for the small sum of $500 for all purposes. About twenty-five cents per member.

It certainly will be a reflection upon us if we do not heed the suggestion.

Respectfully submitted,

JAS. G. THORNTON, Chm.

On motion, Elder J. S. Dill was granted the privilege of presenting the "Endowment of Howard College" to this Association and $597.35 was raised for that purpose in subscriptions and cash.

On motion, adjourned till 2 o'clock p. m.

2 o'clock p. m.—The Association met and the session was opened with prayer by Elder J. L. Ray.

Report on Temperance, adopted:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

This question is now agitating the minds of the American people to greater degree than at any time in the previous history of this country. The prohibition of the liquor traffic is now the great absorbing question, and has gained a position which commands the attention of the law makers of the land, as well as great cause for gratitude on the part of those who have so long and faithfully labored for its success.

Its present attitude before the politicians of the country is such that cannot be utterly ignored by them. It remains to be seen what will be done. It is rapidly becoming a political question in the Northern States, and it will not be many years before it will have to be met in the South. While we are doubtful as to the necessity or even propriety of a third or Prohibition party in the South, yet it becomes all true lovers and advocates of Temperance to exercise their franchise in selecting our legislators and executors of the law, with special reference to the promotion of this work.

We would therefore recommend that, for the present, the best policy to pursue is to keep the question constantly before our churches and the people, in our Sunday Schools and in our day schools, and vote for no man, for any office, who is addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors, or who is opposed to temperance, and such prohibition of the liquor traffic as the people and the demands of the times may require: for, by these means, if faithfully used, we feel constrained to believe that such legislation as may be necessary will be obtained at an earlier day, and in a much more satisfactory manner, than by abandoning the only political party from which relief will finally have to come. Situated as we are, with an element in our midst whose instincts and inclinations are naturally averse to a high and pure state of morals, we are unable, from the present stand point, to see how we are to be benefitted by a third party. Let us set our faces against church members who use intoxicating liquors other than medicine in urgent cases, and in anyway lend countenance or influence to this damnable business, or who will not, by precept and example, discourage and oppose their sale or use except in such cases as necessity actually requires.

Brethren, let us continue to work and pray for the day when the liquor traffic shall have been put under the ban of the law and the accursed evil shall no longer be felt in the land

REPORT ON INDIGENT MINISTERS.

On motion, raised in cash $5 to purchase books for J. S. Estes.

Report of Committee on Indigent Ministers adopted: Your committee find nothing claiming the attention of this body on this subject at present. N. COBB, Chm.

Committee on Publications reported and adopted:

REPORT ON PUBLICATIONS.

Your committee on Publications take pleasure in recommending the Alabama Baptist, the State organ of our denomination, to every Baptist family of the Union Association. The paper has the full confidence of the Baptists of our State, and the work of Renfroe, Henderson and Harris needs no endorsement from us. The paper gives us full information as to the condition, progress and wants of all our great Baptist enterprises, furnishes arguments and thoughts from the best minds upon all religious subjects, and is a powerful and indispensible agency in securing active co-operation among the Baptists of every section of our State. This paper supplies our families with wholesome religious reading, and is instrumental in training our children for usefulness, happiness and honor. Kind Words, and International Lessons have strong claims upon all Baptist Sunday Schools, families and churches. The Foreign Mission Journal, published at Richmond, Va., furnishes full and interesting information from the foreign field. These papers deserve our active support. LEWIS M. STONE, Chm.

Report on Nominations adopted:

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

The next Introductory Sermon by Elder J. H. Curry; alternate, Elder M. G. Lofton. Missionary Sermon by Elder M. M. Wood; alternate, Elder J. P. Lee. The next Circular Letter to be written by brother L. M. Stone, subject: Should non-attendance at public worship be a test of church fellowship.

The next session of the Union Baptist Association will be held with the Beulah church, Greene county, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1887, 10 o'clock a. m. J. W. MITCHELL, Chm.

The committee appointed last session to visit McBee and South Carolina churches reported that McBee church was in working order and promised to be represented at this session. As to South Carolina church, they could find but one person claiming to be a member, and hence could find no church to visit.

Received report of Committee on Apportionment of the churches; adopted as follows:

Bethlehem	$ 8 00	Amount brought forward	$217 00
Liberty	10 00	Corinth	12 ..
Mt. Pleasant	8 00	Spring Hill, Lamar county	5 ..
Pleasant Grove	5 00	Temple Hill	3 ..
Flat Woods	5 00	Unity	20 ..
Arbor Spring	8 00	Enon	35 ..
Kennedy	6 00	Mt. Zion	10 ..
Mineral Spring	12 00	Prairie	10 ..
Oak Ridge	12 00	Forest	25 ..
Spring Hill, Pickens county	12 00	Shiloh	5 ..
Hebron	12 00	Chalcedony	5 ..
Big Creek	15 00	Beulah	40 ..
Cross Roads	3 00	Bethel	30 ..
Pickensville	35 00	New Hope	20 ..
Carrollton	50 00	Zion	5 ..
Ebenezer	8 00	Grant's Creek	50 ..
Antioch	3 00	Fellowship	8 ..
South Carolina	5 00	Nazareth	5 ..
	217 00	Total	$505 00

W. G. ROBERTSON, Chm.

Report of committee on Documents; adopted:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

The Committee on Documents present the following report: We have examined the letters from the churches of the Association and find that some of them have enjoyed revivals since our last annual meeting. We find that 115 members were baptized during the past year. The following churches are not represented in this body, viz; McBee's Creek, Spring Hill, Pickens Co., Cross Roads and South Carolina church. We have examined the Circular Letter read by Elder H. B. Chappelle, and find that he has presented the requirement of the New Testament as to the right of a minister to administer the ordinances of the Gospel.

D. C. HODO, Chm.

Report of committee on Finance read and adopted:

We have received from the churches as follows:

For Minutes	$59 80	
For Association	22 45	
For Missions	197 25	
Total		$ 279 50

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DECEASED DEACONS.

Bro. G. T. Hulsey was born in Georgia Mar. 10, 1823, and died in Greene Co., Ala., Aug. 30, 1885. He was made a Deacon by Chalcedony church Cherokee Co., Ala., in 1850. Moved to Tuscaloosa county in 1867 and joined New Hope church, but afterward went into the organization of Chalcedony church in this county in 1874, of which he was a member and efficicient Deacon till the day of his death.

Bro. J. P. Gates was made a Deacon at Spring Hill church, Pickens county, Ala., in 1858, but at the time of his death he was a member of Hebron church. He was faithful and consistent both as a deacon and church-member. He was born May 12, 1817, and died in Feb. 1886.

Bro. J. B. Shepherd died in Sept. 1886. He was a young man, but was zealous as a christian, and faithfully performed the duties belonging to the office of Deacon. His christian life was spent as a member of Hebron church,—was made a Deacon in 1875.

H. C. MAHARRY, Chm.

Called the roll and marked absentees.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

On motion, *Resolved:* That the delegates bring the question of a division of the Association before their respective churches, and that they send up their wish in regard to said division.

On motion, *Resolved:* That this Association request the pastors to preach to their churches at least one sermon on Missions and the duty of paying their apportionment.

On motion, appointed the following Executive Board: First District—S. W. Vice, J. B. Hodo. Second District—U. E. Allen. John W. Cox. Third District—C. Richey, W. G. Robertson. Fourth District—R. H. Foster, J. T. Smith.

On motion, the Clerk was instructed to superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes, pay over the Mission fund to the Treasurer of the Executive Board, and retain the Association fund for his services.

On motion, *Resolved:* That the thanks of this body are hereby tendered to the members of Unity church, and especially to our Methodist and Presbyterian brethren of the vicinity for the great kindness and munificent hospitality with which we have been entertained during the session of this Association.

On motion, adjourned. The parting hand was given, and prayer was offered by Elder J. C. Foster. And thus again has passed another harmonious session of this Association.

H. B. CHAPPELLE, Clerk. S. HILDRETH, Moderator.

CIRCULAR LETTER;

WRITTEN BY ELDER H. B. CHAPPELLE.

"We believe that no minister has any right to administer the Ordinances of the Gospel unless he has been regularly baptized, called, and come under the imposition of the hands of a Presbytery."—*Twelfth Article of Faith.*

We have here presented for our consideration: First—By whom should the Ordinances of the Gospel be administered? Second—How is he to become qualified for the performance of this important duty?

FIRST.—*By whom should the Ordinances of the Gospel be administered?* The Ordinances of the Gospel i. e. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances exclusively within the church, for the first, baptism was recognized by our Divine Master, the same as was then being practiced by John the Baptist, for we find Him, just as He is about to commence His public ministry, demanding it at the hands of John, leaving us this solemn injunction: "Suffer it to be so now, for thus it becometh us to fulfill all

righteousness." And the Supper, Christ instituted as a memorial service, saying, "This do in remembrance of me." The passover had just been observed, the last that was ever rightfully held on earth: "For I say unto you," says Christ, "I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God." The Real has now come of which that was but the type or shadow—hence the change in the service. These ordinances are symbolic and can have a significance only to those who profess faith in Jesus Christ. To the church, and to the church alone has Christ committed these solemn rites. And the church does not delegate *any right* to the Minister or Elder in his ordination. He is but the qualified or official servant of the church, doing for her what she could not do in her collective capacity. It is the authority of the church that validates the ordinances, and not any mysterious efficacy in the administrator.

SECOND.—*How is he to become qualified for this duty?* First, He must have been regularly baptized; Second, He must have been called; and Third, He must have come under the imposition of the hands of a presbytery.

1. *He must have been regularly baptized:* This accords not only with Scripture, but with the history of the church from the Apostles to the present day. The *church* confers the rite of baptism and she does it by the hand of her accredited servant—the minister. The church can neither limit or extend this ordinance. Faith in Christ is absolutely essential for Scriptural or regular baptism. There must be unity of mode as well as unity of qualification to constitute regular baptism. Any essential element wanting either in subject or administrator would vitiate the act. Baptism is an act of obedience, hence voluntary and to be regular cannot be dependent on the will of another.

2. *He must have been called?* Of whom? Surely not of the church, but of God, as was Aaron. The church can give or confer only *authority*, but never the necessary qualifications. Neither can the combined Theological Seminaries of the land make a *gospel* minister. The ministry is not a profession, to be laid down or taken up at pleasure, for if so then our Seminaries might turn them out according to the law of supply and demand. What then is a call to the ministry? It can be nothing more, nor nothing less than a conviction of duty, a duty so engrossing, so permeating the heart as to cause each to feel "Woe is unto m , if I preach not the gospel." But how are we to know that we have been called of God to preach the gospel? Not from any outward manifestation, for it is an inward work, and like faith and regeneration each must answer for himself, its effects may be seen in the life, but surely fitness or adaptability for the work can never enter into the solution of the question. It is not a privilege but a duty impressed by the Holy Spirit upon the heart, the mind, the soul of every one truly called of God. Nothing less than this could impel the acceptance of a work of such fearful responsibilities. Now, how can any one who has been impressed with the duty of preaching the gospel refuse to discharge its duties? None should engage hastily in this work; and not until fully assured that "a dispensation of the gospel" is committed unto him. This may be known by the peace, the joy imparted to the conscience by discharging its duties. Still how often the question recurs "Who is sufficient for these things." We are but feeble instruments, "I have planted," says Paul, "Apollos watered but God gave the increase."

The work is not of man, yet "it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God." 1 Cor. 1:18. Faithfullness on the part of the minister, in whatsoever sphere God has placed him, should be of far greater anxiety to him, than the results; for these belongs to God. Then "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Matt. 28, 19, 20.

3. *He must have come under the imposition of the hands of a presbytery.* This is but a formal and solemn setting apart by the church of those whom she approves and confirms in the gospel ministry. The church alone bestows the ecclesiastical authority, and she does it by the hands of a presbytery—her official servants. The presbytery or counsel can exercise or bestow no authority apart from the church.

"That Christ," says a well known author, "invested His churches with all the functions and powers necessary for their self-existence and self-perpetuation no intelligent Baptist will deny. No church then is dependent upon bodies outside of herself for her religious teachers and the administrators of her ordinances. Each church then has divine authority to select and ordain her own officers, and is in no sense dependent upon the will or pleasure of another church or body for her officers. Any Scripturally appointed church can find a presbytery within her own membership to officiate for her in formally setting apart and conferring her authority upon one she has elected to preach the gospel." "No instance can be found in the New Testament where one church applied to another or to other churches for a presbytery to ordain for her a minister." "It is true if an apostate was present he doubtless assisted, by advice, in the work, but still it was the church that ordained or made the member an official servant." "Paul did not tell Titus to call in several ministers from sister churches in Crete when he commanded him to have elders appointed or ordained in all the churches of that island." These churches evidently ordained ministers to the full work of the ministery when they were without pastors themselves, or why this order of Paul to have them ordain one or more elders for each church in the city."

"Let it then be borne in mind that each church is possessed of all the ecclesiastical powers on earth, and she can therefore derive no additional power or authority should all the existing churches on earth act with her; also that the ordaining of a member to the full work of the ministry is an ecclesiastical act, and that a council, presbytery, Association or Convention is no church or part of a church, and possesses not a scintilla of ecclesiastical power or authority, and therefore can neither make nor unmake a minister, or dictate anything in connection therewith, but advise only when a church asks for advice."

"It is, we repeat and emphasize, by the sole authority of a church that a legal or Scriptural minister can be made,—ordained to the full work of the ministry. If then there can be a Scriptural church without a pastor, then she can perform all the functions of a church, and that there can be a church without a pastor is evident, since where there is no church no pastor is needed, and the organization must exist before its officers."

STATISTICS OF THE UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES.	Baptized	Rec'd by Letter.	Dis. by L	Restored	Exclud.	Dec'd.	Males.	Females	Total Members	Minutes.	Association.	Total.	MEETIN'S	PASTORS.	CHURCH CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.
Bethlehem	11					1	22	34	56	2 50	50	2 50	3	D. O. Baird	J. Bradley, Coalfire, Ala.
Liberty	1						4	4	8				4	W. J. Beaty	J. W. Beaty, Reform, Ala.
Mt. Pleasant	3		1		1		19	41	60	1 50	50	2 00	4	J. F. Shirley	W. B. Hicks, Lyars, "
Fellowship	10						22	20	42	1 50		1 50	2	W. J. Beaty	J. B. Rhodo, Reform, "
Cornith							25	50	75		1 00	1 00	2	W. E. Hodge	J. A. Mitchell, Silsey, Tike
Flat Woods	5					3*	23	30	53	2 05		2 05	2	J. S. Shirley	J. M. Parker, Raleigh, Ala.
Spring Hill, L	33				12		21	30	51	1 30	50	1 80	2	J. S. Wooton	J. D. Walker, Gentry, "
Pleasant Grove							24	25	49	1 00		1 00	1		W. Vail, Laxapalila, "
Kennedy's Sta	3		1				8	16	24	1 00	55	1 55	1	J. W. Cox	S. W. Vire, Kennedy's, "
McBee Creek							7	10	17		1 00	2 00			
Arbor Spring	13		3				42	54	96	1 70		1 70	1	G. M. Lyles	
Mineral Spring	1				1		30	39	69	2 00		2 00	2	T. J. McCrary	T. J. McCrary, Palmetto,
South Carolina							12	29	32	1 60		1 60	1	J. P. Lee	J. W. Cox, Beard's, Ala.
Oak Ridge	12						12	25	37	3 00		3 00	2		
Spring Hill, P							17	20	37	1 60		1 60	2	H. B. Chappelle	H. L. Williams, Lincburg,
Hebron	3				12		20	43	63	2 50		2 50	4	M. G. Lofton	J. H. Stinson, Pickensville
Big Creek											1 00	1 00	3	G. M. Lyles	J. A. Pearson, Carrollton.
Cross Roads*	6		6										3	M. G. Lofton	W. O. Kelsey, Carrollton.
Pickensville							14	22	36	1 00		1 00	1		
Carrollton	1						37	45	82	2 50		2 50	4	J. H. Curry	J. H. Taylor, Pickonsville
Ebenezer*							6	15	21	1 00		1 00	4	J. H. Curry	L. M. Stone, Carollton, Ala
			33								2 00	2 00	4	J. H. Curry	T. H. Noland, " "
Antioch							5	10	15	1 00		1 00	3	J. S. Shirley	H. Easterling, " "
Temple Hill	4						25				25	25			
Unity	4						25	49	74	3 00		3 00	1	M. G. Lofton	W. R. Davis Bethany, Als.
Shoal	3						24	34	58	2 00	1 00	3 00	3	M. G. Lofton	H. B. Chappelle, jr. Garden
Mt. Zion							24	35	59	1 50		1 50	3	J. H. Curry	J. H. Curry, Bethany, Ala.
Prairie	3		1				16	*29	45	1 25		1 25	3	M. G. Lofton	James Noland, Bethany,
Forest	4						33	48	81	4 00		4 00	3	M. G. Thornton	W. C. Mayes, West Greene
Shiloh	11		1				25	24	49	1 50		1 50	3	M. M. Wood	J. Noland, Bethany, Ala.
Chalcedony*	39		3				17	26	43	1 00	50	1 50	1	J. W. Hosmer	J. L. Thomas, Hickman,
Nazareth	8		20				12	9	21	1 00		1 00	1	J. W. Hosmer	J. W. Channell.
Beulah	2						53	85	138	3 50		3 50	2	S. E. Hodge	R. Marlow, Romulus Ala.
Bethel	13		3				81	52	133	4 00	1 00	5 00	3	M. M. Wood	E. H. Lamb, Union, Ala.
	1		4				8	8	16	1 50		1 50	3	M. M. Wood	E. H. Lamb, Union, Ala.
New Hope	1		7				40	32	72	3 00	50	3 50	2	C. Foster	J. W. Robertson, Romulus.
Zion	1						32	49	81	2 50	50	3 00	2	J. H. Anders	W. G. Berry, Raleigh, Ala.
Grant's Creek*	4		1				45	77	122	3 00	25	1 50	2	J. C. Foster	R. H. Foster, Sylvan, Ala.
	8		1				13	18	31	1 00	1 00	4 00	1		
	28		85		15	21	32	713	112	1855	23	75			

H. B. CHAPPELLE, in account with Union Baptist Association.

To cash from Committee on Finance	$279	59
" 4th District omitted last year	3	60
" Spring Hill church, Pickens	2	60—285 10
CR.		
By cash paid for printing Minutes	69	80
" " Executive Board	200	85
" " Clerk for services	29	45—285 10

UNION BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS.

SCHOOLS.	Teachers	Pupils	TOTAL	SUPERINTEND'S	POST-OFFICES.
Carrollton	6	81	87	W. G. Robertson.	Carrollton, Pickens Co. Ala
Beulah	4	56	60	S. S. Thornton	Union, Greene county. Ala
Unity					
Mt. Zion*	3	20	23		Bethany, Pickens county.
Zion					
Pickensville	6	50	56	John J. Ball	Pickensville, Pickens Co.
Enon*	7	56	63	C. Richey.	Garden,,, " "
Hebron	6	50	56	H. A. Pearson	Carrollton, " "
Bethel	6	55	61	Dr. R D Lucius	Hickman, Tuskaloosa, Co.
Prairie					
Arbor Spring*	4	40	44	Dr. D O Baird	Coal-Fire, Pickens county.
Eureka	3	30	33	U E Allen	Carrollton, Pickens "
Sylvan	6	30	36	Robert H Foster	Sylvan, Tuskaloosa "
Grant's Creek	9	58	67	J. A. Maharry	Foster's, " "
New Hope*	3	34	37	J H Robertson	Romulus, " "
Spring Hill*	2	23	25	James M Land	Pickensville, Pickens Co.
Fellowship*	5	40	45	Benj. Pearson	Reform, " "
Forest	6	31	37	Iredell Teer	Benevola " "
Antioch					
Shiloh					
Chalcedony					
Nazareth*	2	20	22	R Marlowe	Romulus, Tuskaloosa "
Flat Woods					
Corinth*	2	23	25	James Mills, Jr	Sipsey Turnpike, Alabama.
Olney*	3	39	42	W. P. Peden	Bethany, Pickens county
				* Estimated.	
Total	83	736	819		

W. G. ROBERTSON, Secretary and Treasurer,

1886. *In account with S. S. Convention:*

Aug. 27.	Am't on hand as per report	$46 27	
	" from Finan5e Committee	14 09	
	" collection on Sabbath	14 00	74.27
CR.—By am't paid Ministerial Education			60
Balance on hand			$ 73.67

MINUTES OF THE 18TH SESSION OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION OF THE UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, HELD WITH BETHEL CHURCH, AUGUST 27TH, 1886.

FRIDAY—The appointees being absent, by request, the Convention sermon was preached at 11 a. m. by Elder M. M. Wood.

After a short recess the Convention was called to order by the Secretary, in the absence of the President and, on motion, Bro. C. Richey was elected temporary chairman. The proceedings were conducted in accordance with program arranged by the committee.

Letters were received from 11 Schools and delegates enrolled.

C. Richey was elected permanent President, and W. G. Robertson Secretary and Treasurer.

Query No. 1. How shall we increase the spirit of beneficence in our schools? Opened by Elder M. M. Wood, and participated in by other brethren, after which it was laid on the table.

SATURDAY, 9 A. M.—After devotional exercises discussed Query No. 2. Who is responsible for the action of a Sabbath School? The discussion was opened by brother S. S. Thornton, and after a pleasant and profitable interchange of views, was answered as follows: The Church is responsible for the action of the Sunday School.

Query No. 3. What relation does the pastor sustain to the Sunday School—was opened by brother C. Richey. This Query elicited a warm discussion and was referred to brothers R. H. Foster and W. G. Robertson for answer. The Essay—The Force of Habit—was read by Miss Jennie Thornton, much to the delight and entertainment of the convention. On motion, the convention requested the publication of the Essay in the Alabama *Baptist*.

2. P. M. Devotional exercises. The report on temperance submitted by brother Hodo was discussed with much earnestness. The policy outlined advises to steer clear of political alliances, and by agitation in our churches and schools, educate the people to take a high stand against the liquor traffic, and when called upon to vote to select only those who will reflect the sentiments of the people and give us wholesome legislation on this subject.

Query No. 4. Is the Influence of Sabbath Schools increasing with the people—was opened and ably discussed by Dr. R. D. Lucius.

Secretary made report on Sunday School work. The report shows a decrease in the number of schools during the past year. One encouraging feature is that nearly all the schools are on a more permanent basis and self sustaining. There has been but little demand for aid, and most of those asking it have refunded the amount used.

On motion, Bro. J. L. Ray was authorized to labor with every church in the 4th District and make an effort to organize a school in each, and that he draw on the Treasurer for expense of his services and literature. On motion, *Resolved*, that the Secretary be instructed to secure the services of some competent man to visit the 1st and 2nd Districts and organize, if possible, schools in the churches where there are none; and that he be instructed to pay the said brother from the surplus fund now on hand. Adopted.

Next Convention Sermon to be preached by Elder J. H. Curry; alternate, Elder J. P. Lee. Missionary Sermon by Eder H. B. Chappelle, alternate, Elder M. G. Lofton.

Queries and Essays adopted for next convention, viz: *Query* 1. How can we establish Sabbath Schools in those churches which have none? Opened by J. P. Barnett. *Query* No. 2. What are the moral and religious influences of a Sunday School? Opened by E. D. Willett, Jr. *Essay* 1. The Influence of Association, by Mrs. M. E. Gardner. *Essay* 2. The Importance of Early Religious Training, by D. C. Hodo.

The committee reported $14 sent up by the schools. Amount collected on Sabbath was $14.

The next session of the Convention will be held with Hebron church, commencing Friday before the 5th Sabbath in July, 1887. D. C. Hodo and S. Hildreth appointed committee on programme. W. G. Robertson was requested to conduct the Sunday School exercises on Sabbath. Elder J. S. Dill of the Tuskaloosa Association was requested to preach the Missionary Sermon to-morrow.

Ordered that the Constitution be published in the Minutes.

Returned thanks to the brethren and friends for hospitalities shown during the Convention.

Thanks to the WEST ALABAMIAN for printing programme.

The Convention adjourned.

W. G. ROBERTSON, Secretary. C. RICHEY, President.

CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF DECORUM.

Article I. The name of this society shall be the SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION OF THE UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Art. II. Its object shall be to organize Sabbath Schools within the bounds of said Association, and co-operate with the Alabama State Baptist Sunday School Convention.

Art. III. It shall be composed of such members as the various Baptist Sabbath Schools, or churches within the bounds of said Association may annually elect. Every Baptist Sunday School, having a permanent organization, shall be entitled to three delegates, and every Baptist Church where there is no Sabbath School, to two delegates.

Art. IV. The officers shall be a President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall discharge the duties usual to such offices, and hold their offices until their successors shall have been elected.

Art. V. This Convention shall meet annually at such time and place as shall from time to time be appointed.

Art. VI. This Constitution may be altered or amended by vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular annual meeting. The parliamentray rules applicable to deliberative assemblies, shall govern this Convention whilst in session.

This Convention shall annually elect delegates to the Union Baptist Association, and to the State Sabbath School Convention.

Art. VII. All Baptist ministers, in good standing, residing within the bounds of said Association who may be present at any annual meeting, shall be ex-officio members of this Convention; and any such who may attend the annual meetings of the State Sabbath School Convention, shall be delegates thereto from this body.

Art. VIII. Officers of this Convention shall be elected annually by ballot of the members present, and a majority of all the votes cast shall elect.

NAMES OF BAPTIST MINISTERS

IN THIS ASSOCIATION WITH THEIR POST-OFFICES.

D. O. Baird,	Coalfire,	Pickens	County,	Alabama.
R. B. Watkins,	Reform,	"	"	"
H. B. Chappelle,	Dillburgh,	"	"	"
J. D. Hamner,*	Carrollton,	"	"	"
J. H. Curry,	"	"	"	"
F. M. Walker,*	"	"	"	"
H. A. Pearson,*	"	"	"	"
G. M. Lyles,	Beard's,	"	"	"
J. S. Wooten,	"	"	"	"
S. Hildreth,	Pickensville,	"	"	"
J. M. Land,	"	"	"	"
J. P. Lee,	"	"	"	"
M. G. Lofton,	Garden,	"	"	"
J. L. Ray,	Hickman,	Tuskaloosa	"	"
M. M. Wood,	"	"	"	"
J. C. Foster,	Foster's,	"	"	"
J. H. M. Anders,	Romulus,	"	"	"
Henry Hitt,*	"	"	"	"
J. A. Estes,*				
J. S. Shirley,	Raleigh,	Pickens	"	"
J. R. Goodman,*	Gentry,	Lamar	"	"
J. G. Thornton,	Union,	Greene	county,	Alabama.
W. J. Beaty,	Gordo,	Pickens	"	"

ORDAINED MINISTERS, ... 17

LICENTIATES, ... 6